

THE MORNING NEWS

Your Source for local news in English

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A warm holiday toast to all from
THE MORNING NEWS!



ORANJESTAD -- Staffers of THE MORNING NEWS gathered together for their first formal Christmas dinner at The Queen's restaurant in Palm Beach Plaza, on Friday, December 20. The hardworking crew, which puts together and distrib-

utes the morning paper six days a week, enjoyed a well-deserved and congenial get together at the elegant venue that specialized in Arubian cuisine.

The Queen's is offer a choice of three holiday dinners, well suited to small com-

panies, in a variety of price ranges, that include appetizer, main course and dessert. The staffers all chose the favorite regional holiday treat, some picture perfect ayacas, from a variety of such dishes with local flair.

What was most enjoyable about the whole affair was this was the first time THE MORNING NEWS workers took the opportunity to break from their busy schedules to jointly celebrate the season and style, an congenial evening they will definitely make a tradition.

All of us at THE MORNING NEWS, Ingrid, Rosalinda, Chandi, Elly, Marline, Rosalie, Angeline, Edwina and Tiara, Tico and Yanis wish all our readers a wonderful holiday celebration and all the best in the New Year.

India keeps up pressure on US in diplomat row

NEW DELH (AFP) - India kept up pressure on the United States on Sunday over a furore at the arrest and strip search of one of its diplomats in New York, saying "they must do something".

Foreign minister Salman Khurshid has sought to ease the crisis, saying the episode should not be allowed to de-

rail "the valuable relationship" between the world's two largest democracies.

But when told the US State Department had welcomed his remarks, Khurshid told the Press Trust of India news agency on Sunday: "They (the US) must do something. Welcoming is not enough."

Asked if he was hopeful of a resolution of the issue soon, Khurshid also said: "World keeps moving forward, world never dies, world never stops. Something will happen."

The crisis was sparked by the arrest of Devyani Khobragade, India's deputy consul general at its mission in New York, on December 12, over accusations that she underpaid her maid.

Subsequent revelations that Khobragade was stripped by US Marshals and subjected to an invasive body search have caused outrage in India, which wants Washington to drop the case and offer an apology.



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US says Americans safely evacuated from S. Sudan's Bor

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States said it had safely evacuated Americans from the rebel-held South Sudanese city of Bor on Sunday, one day after a rescue mission had to be aborted.

State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said in a statement that helicopters were used in the successful evacuation, which was conducted in conjunction with the United Nations and the South Sudanese government.

"The United States and the United Nations, which has the lead for securing Bor airport in South Sudan, took steps to ensure fighting factions were aware these flights were a humanitarian mission," she said.

The announcement came 24 hours after the Pentagon confirmed that three Osprey

aircraft had been hit by gunfire when approaching Bor, wounding four US servicemen and forcing the planes to head toward Uganda.

The State Department statement said around 380 US officials and private citizens, plus 300 citizens of other countries had so far been transported to Nairobi and other locations on four chartered flights and five military aircraft.

"We strongly recommend US citizens in South Sudan depart immediately," Psaki added.

The United States deployed 45 troops on Wednesday to protect American personnel and assets in South Sudan, amid intensifying fighting between rebels and government forces.

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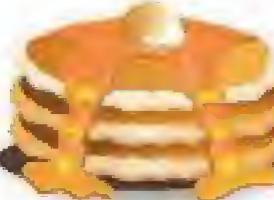
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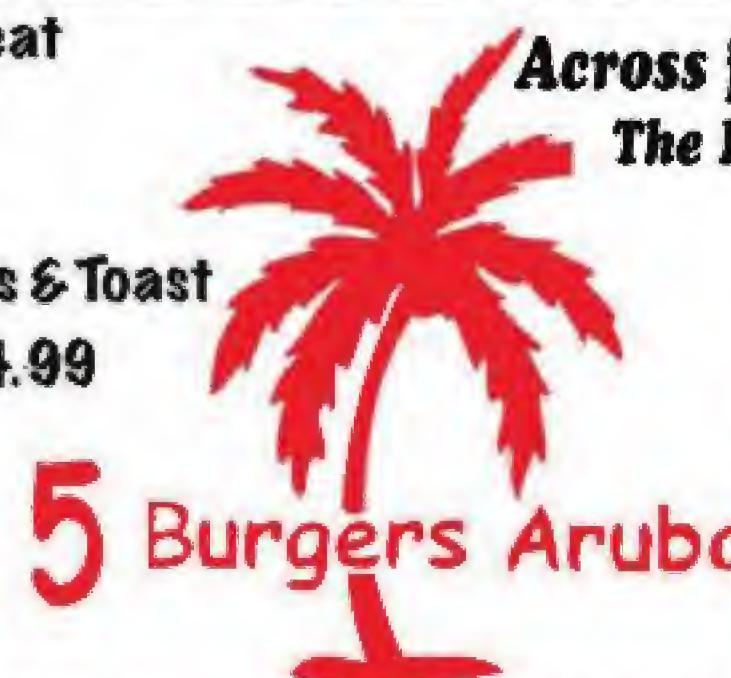
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5 Burgers Aruba

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Department of Labor poised to move into new and better facilities



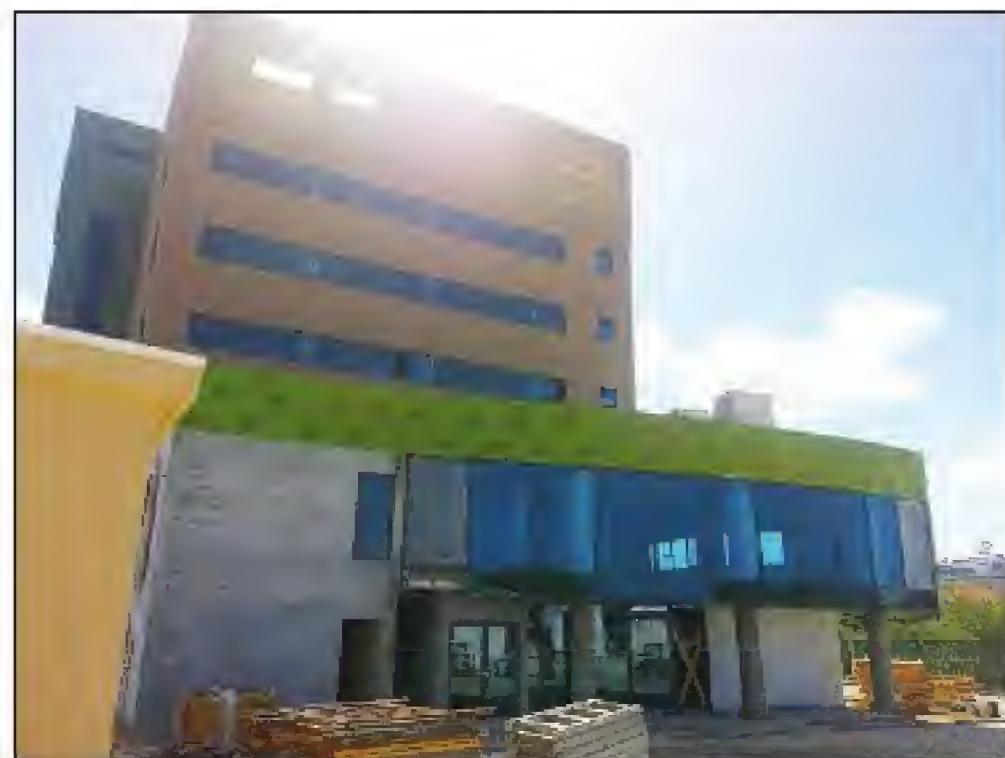
ORANJESTAD -- Minister of Labor, Paul Croes expressed enthusiasm for the new facil-

ties that the Department of Labor is soon to move into. This is the renovated and restored former Tax Building. This new facility will provide for more space and better communication between DIMAS and DAO as they both occupy the building. It will also elevate the quality of service we will be giving our visitors and citizens.

Ministers Croes, together with Prime Minister Mike Eman and Minister of Immig-

ration Benny Sevinger, got a guided tour of the building by Iris Giel of the Public Works Department. Iris Giel was in charge of the entire project. Minister Croes was very interested in knowing how both departments will function in the new facilities and how they will communicate.

The Minister expressed gratitude for all who contributed to making the project possible, to mention, the Infra Team of DOW, the Van Kessel Contractors and the Fondo di Desaroyo who provided the funds for the financing of the project. The cost of the project is estimated around 12 million Aruban florins. They expect to complete the project by the end



of May 2014.

According to Minister Paul Croes, every restored and res-

cued building means a savings to the government and an improvement of our infrastructure.

Holiday Menu

Afl. 55
Tax & Service Charge not included

Afl. 3055
Tax & Service Charge not included

BUCCANEER RESTAURANT

Appetizer (Choose one)

Seafood Tempera, Shrimp Cocktail Ahoy, Fried Calamari with Marinara Sauce, Fruits of the Seven Seas, Escargot Bourguignon, Mushroom on a Deck, Pirates Treasure Soup

Pirates Menu (Choose one)

HOLIDAY PLATTER
Holiday Baked Ham, Roast Turkey served with traditional favorites, cranberry sauce, mashed potato & brown gravy, green beans almondine and herbed stuffing. Let the celebration begin!

LAND AND SEA DELIGHT
A duo of chicken Florentine & grilled fresh catch of the day topped with seafood medley

STEAK LOVERS
Beef Tenderloin with mushroom sauce, stuffed potato and sautéed vegetables

ALBERTO'S FRESH CATCH
Fish à la Meunière served with wild rice & green beans almondine

SEAFOOD TRIO
A perfect combination of shrimps scampi, grilled scallops and fried calamari served with wild rice and fresh vegetable

STUFFED PORKLOIN D'ANGELO
Roasted herb stuffed porkloin served with loaded potato, fresh vegetable and herbed brown gravy

CHEF SPECIAL
Chicken Piccata with spinach and topped with artichoke sauce, served wild rice and green beans almondine

Kille Pirates Menu

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Free Zone Company Aruba's first waste to energy project

ORANJESTAD -- The groundbreaking for Aruba's first waste to energy project took place Wednesday December 18, 2013. This project is a joint venture between Ecological Technologies & Trading Free Zone, WEB Aruba and Free Zone Aruba and delivers one more step in the direction of Aruba's 2020 vision to become a fully fossil free economy.

During the Europe Meets the America's conference, held in May this year, a memorandum of understanding was signed to enable further development of this project.

The new fiscal reform package named 'Begunstigend Beleid' - Munificent Administration made an important contribution to the realization of the waste to energy project.

Besides the influence of a fossil free economy, the Project will also have an impact on reducing the islands



Directors of Utilities NV, Frank Hoevertsz, WEB NV, Oslin Boekhoudt, Free Zone Aruba, Greg Peterson and ET & Free Zone, Freddy Kelkboom.

waste. The increasing garbage volumes will start to be curtailed to the benefit of the quality of 'product Aruba'.

Ecological Technologies & Trading Free Zone will

supply WEB Aruba with biogas for the production of electricity which will be beneficial for local consumers of water and electricity.

Continued on page 4

Paseo Herencia
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Holiday WEEKLY HAPPENINGS

MONDAY CULTURAL NIGHT
Cultural Dance Show by a local dance group on main stage at 8pm

THURSDAY SPECTACULAR FANTASY NIGHT
An acrobatic dance show on main stage at 8pm

FRIDAY CARIBBEAN PAN NIGHT
Steel pan Music Live on main stage at 8 pm

SATURDAY TRADITIONAL GAITAS
Gaitas Show live on stage from 7pm - 9pm

SUNDAY LOCAL ARTIST
Performance by Local Singer Edjean Semeleer

NIGHTLY WALTZING WATER SHOW
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Free Zone Company Aruba's first waste to energy project

Continued from page 2



In the first phase of the waste to energy project, 2MW will be produced, which is 2% of Aruba's electricity demand. In the future the project hopes to use 70% of household waste and produce 7MW.

Free Zone Aruba NV is very excited about this achievement. This milestone demonstrates the key role Aruba's free zone can play in developing Aruba as Green Gateway

for the region, says Greg Peterson, director of Aruba's Free Zone.



Hospital employees celebrate end of the year fiesta



ORANJESTAD -- In a classic and elegant ambiance at the Renaissance Convention Center, staff and personnel of the Dr. Horacio E. Oduber Hospital celebrated their end of the year fiesta.

Some 700 employees, doctors, pensioners, laboratory personnel and all working in the Hospital, along with a small group of invited guests attended this grand celebration.

The night began with a champagne reception. The organizing committee provided for all details, from a terrific menu to great music. Perfect Sound and D'Licious played music of all types for all tastes.

During the evening both Theo Kool and Dr. Jaime Falconi gave short speeches. They talked about the plans for the future. They encouraged everyone for the changes to come in

2014.

Theo Kool indicated that they will probably lay the first stone for the expansion and renovation of the Hospital in the first quarter of the year. He referred to some of the projects they were able to start in 2013. Among these, a few training programs, which will be continuing in the coming year?

Dr. Falconi expressed his pleasure, honor and pride to be



part of the hospital team. He mentioned different groups working like a family to ensure that every day they can provide quality care at the hospital. He was grateful for the pensioners, the employees, including those from Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao, Holland, the Philippines and Spain. He also mentioned a few departments, among others, the cleaning service, laboratory, technical department, nurses and the specialists.

Dr. Falconi also mentioned the changes to take place, primarily in the manner in which

they will be attending to patients. He asked each colleague present to give themselves a round of applause because they can do an excellent and exemplary job for the Aruban community. Falconi expressed words of gratitude to the organizing committee and asked everyone to reflect on the birth of Jesus and to reflect on good communication and peace.

Colleague and singer, Rachel Kraajivanger delighted all with her delightful music. There were also some excellent take home door prizes.

In 2014, Dutch passport to be valid for 10 years



ORANJESTAD — Head of Civil Registration and Census announces that as of December 17, 2013, the Upper Chamber in the Netherlands approved a change in the Kingdom's passport law. Now a Dutch passport will be valid for 10 years.

The change still has to be endorsed.

Starting January 2014, the Ministry of Interior and Kingdom Relations will advise all Dutch municipalities, public departments and other instances in charge of emitting passports about the exact date the law comes into force.

At the same time, the Ministry will announce the new tariff for new passports. This tariff comes into force the moment the new passport period is introduced.

All passports issued in 2014 after the new law is confirmed, to citizens aged 18 and over, will expire after 10 years.

Passports issued in 2014 before the new law goes into effect, will expire on the date stipulated in the passport.





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DUE TO FORECASTED LIGHT WINDS AND MOSTLY CLEAR WEATHER CONDITIONS EXPECT ARUBA'S LOW TO BE AROUND 22 TO 21 DEGREES CELSIUS ON CHRISTMAS EVE AND ON CHRISTMAS.

MARINE CONDITIONS: WAVE DIRECCION WILL BE EAST-NORTHEAST WITH WAVE HEIGHTS BETWEEN 3 TO 7 FEET.

CIA helped Colombia hunt and kill FARC leaders: report

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Colombia's battle against leftist FARC guerrillas has been secretly aided by a US intelligence program that helped government forces hunt down and assassinate rebel leaders, the Washington Post reported Sunday.

The secret CIA program - separate from the \$9 billion US aid package dubbed Plan Colombia, which launched in 2000 -- was initially authorized by president George W. Bush around the same time.

President Barack Obama has continued the assistance, the Post reported, citing its interviews with more than 30 current and former officials from both the United States and Colombia.

The covert program works in two ways: the US provides intelligence to help locate the FARC leaders, and it furnishes a special GPS guidance kit that helps convert standard bombs into highly-precise smart bombs.

It was thanks to US information that the FARC number two, Raul Reyes, was found and killed in 2008, the report said, noting that the CIA program had helped Colombia eliminate "at least two dozen rebel leaders".

The Reyes operation was carried out on March 1, 2008, in neighboring Ecuador.

"To conduct an airstrike meant a Colombian pilot flying a Colombian plane would hit the camp using a US-made bomb with a CIA-controlled brain," the Post said, adding that the United States justified the incursion in another sovereign country's territory as self-defense for Colombia.

The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), has conducted an insurgency against the state since its founding in 1964.

Then president Alvaro Uribe waged a fierce war against the FARC during his 2002 to 2010 presidency, reducing Colombia's largest leftist rebel group by half -- it now numbers some 8,000 fighters -- and confining it to remote areas of the country.

The FARC has been in peace talks with the government of current President Juan Manuel Santos for over a year. The two sides are currently discussing drug trafficking as part of an attempt to reach a comprehensive peace deal.

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'El Gordo' jackpot brings Christmas cheer to crisis-hit Spain



MADRID - Lottery ticket-holders in two Spanish towns - a working-class suburb outside Madrid and a town recently hit by layoffs in the Basque country - were the big winners of the 640-million-euro El Gordo Christmas draw on Sunday.

People who bought their tickets in the two towns took a combined 540 million euros of El Gordo, the top prize of a 200-year-old Christmas lottery that is a treasured tradition in Spain, with families, offices and bar regulars clubbing together to buy tickets.

Some 180 million euros (\$246 million) went to the Basque town of Mondragon, the site of Spain's biggest consumer appliance company Fager, which recently had to lay off more than 2,000 people as part of insolvency proceedings.

"I'm on cloud nine! I couldn't imagine something like this happening. We've been in the press for so many unpleasant reasons, and for something which brings such joy to happen here is a real support for the people," Jose Maria Garai, one of the officially designated ticket sellers in Mondragon, told Spanish television.

Another 360 million euros went to ticket holders in Leganes, a town of laborers and immigrants on the outskirts of the capital.

"I was in bed and my heart

started racing when I heard that the top prize fell in Leganes," Alfonso Martinez, 53, who has been out of work for eight months, told reporters outside the state lottery office where he bought his winning ticket.

"I really needed it, I really needed it because at 53, getting a job at this point is impossible."

The Christmas lottery was designed in 1812 to allow as many people as possible to get a festive windfall. This year 160 "series", or versions, of the winning number were issued at 100 euros each, capable of being divided into 10ths of 20 euros each.

El Gordo, Spanish for "The Fat One", is the richest prize but there are thousands more, and the drawing takes hours. More than 2.2 billion euros

were doled out on Sunday.

This year for the first time the state will tax any winnings over 2,500 euros as part of austerity measures aimed at reducing one of the euro zone's highest public deficits.

Before Spain's property-led economic boom collapsed in 2008, sending the jobless rate soaring to 26 percent, winners often talked of buying new cars or taking a luxury holiday.

Now they mostly speak about paying their mortgage and helping their families.

"It is enough of a luxury to pay the mortgage," Raul Clavero, a 26-year-old mechanic from Leganes whose parents are unemployed, told reporters when asked what he would do with his prize money.

Khodorkovsky to stay out of Russia, help jailed dissidents

BERLIN (AFP) - Russia's former oil tycoon Mikhail Khodorkovsky said Sunday after walking free from a decade in prison he would stay away from his homeland but help free political prisoners still behind bars in the country.

In an astonishing turn of events, the Kremlin critic surfaced in Germany hours after his release on Friday from a prison in an obscure corner of northern Russia, following a pardon by President Vladimir Putin.

Mobbed by reporters at his first news conference in Berlin since his release, Khodorkovsky admitted he had been given no choice over his final destination and thanked German Chancellor Angela Merkel for aiding his liberation.

Khodorkovsky, formerly Russia's richest man, said he had no intention of becoming involved in Russian politics and could not return to the country so long as a court order for him to pay \$550 million in damages was still in place.

He said he would focus his energies on helping political prisoners walk out of Russian jails. "I will do everything so that there are none left, do everything I can."

He added that Western governments should "remember I am not the last political prisoner in Russia," adding it would be wrong if he was seen as a "symbol" that there were no longer political prisoners in his country.

Rights groups are still seeking to secure the release of around a dozen protesters arrested for their role in a rally in 2012 on the eve of Putin's inauguration for a third term, who many see as political prisoners.

Khodorkovsky's co-accused, business partner and friend Platon Lebedev also remains behind bars.

The former chief executive and founder of the Yukos oil giant said he had no plans to return to business but had enough means to live on.

He thanked Merkel for working on his release. He said that he had been granted a German visa for one year but had not decided on his future travel plans.

"She (Merkel) made it possible for me to be free today," he said as well as thanking former German foreign minister Hans Dietrich Genscher who held secret talks with Putin to win the release.

Asked about his relationship with Putin, Khodorkovsky refused to be drawn into expressing hatred towards the Russian strongman who the former tycoon's supporters accuse of ordering his two trials and convictions in order to eliminate a potentially dangerous opponent.

At the time of his arrest in 2003, Khodorkovsky was openly critical of Putin and had begun financing the Russian opposition.

But he said that while he had been treated harshly, "my family had never been touched".

Khodorkovsky said he was against a boycott of the Sochi Olympics in February 2014, noting a "festival of sport should not be spoilt". But he acknowledged it should not become a "festival of Vladimir Putin".

In his first media interview since his release, Khodorkovsky revealed he had made clear his intention to stay out of politics in his request for a pardon from Putin and would not seek the return of Yukos assets which were seized by the state and bought by state oil firm Rosneft.

Khodorkovsky indicated that Moscow had wanted him out of the country and said he will not return home until he is certain he can leave again in full security.

Putin's spokesman said he was free to come back. "He is free to return to Russia. Absolutely," Dmitry Peskov told AFP.

On Saturday, the 50-year-old was reunited with his parents, 79-year-old mother Marina and 80-year-old father Boris, who travelled to Berlin from Moscow, and with his eldest son Pavel, who lives in the United States.

Khodorkovsky, widely seen as Russia's most famous post-Soviet inmate, was jailed for financial crimes in separate convictions in 2005 and 2010. He had been due for release in August 2014.

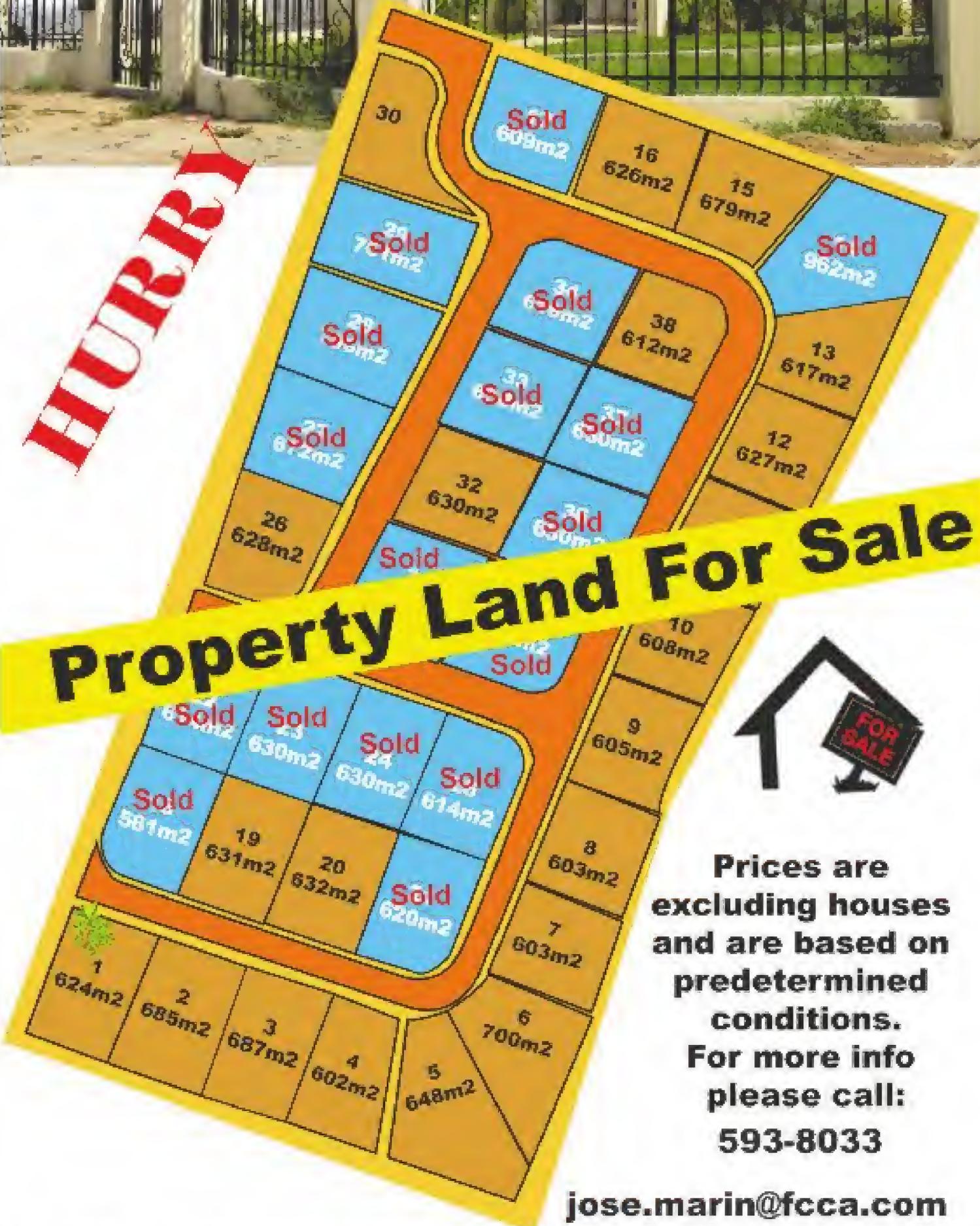
Putin shocked Russia on Thursday by saying that, after a decade behind bars, his fierce opponent had turned to him for a pardon on humanitarian grounds.

Khodorkovsky's release came amid intense activity in Russia in an apparent bid to improve its image ahead of the Olympics and its chairmanship of the G8 next year, with parliament also approving a major amnesty.

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Mexico shatters crime ring - MEXICO CITY (AFP) - Authorities said that they broke up a trafficking ring that brought foreigners, mostly Asians, into Mexico intent on smuggling them into the United States. Prosecutors said they detained seven Mexicans and three Bangladeshis accused of moving the migrants to Mexico's northern border with the United States at a huge cost and in grim conditions. The migrants came from places like India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan, as well as Iran and Somalia, officials said. The ring was based in Mexico City and the Caribbean coastal state of Quintana Roo, prosecutors said. In a raid police found 13 people -- two from India, five from Bangladesh and six from Nepal -- held in unhealthy conditions waiting to be moved by traffickers. At least 140,000 people enter Mexico every year trying to reach the United States, most of the foreigners are Central Americans, but the number of Asians has been on the rise, officials say.

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EARLY BIRD SPECIAL

Patient 'progressing' after first artificial heart implant in France



PARIS (AFP) - A 75-year-old man who this week became the first person to receive an artificial heart developed by French biomedical firm Carmat was progressing well, doctors said Saturday.

The patient was "progressing and recuperating", said surgeon Christian Latremouille, who was among the 16-strong team of doctors who performed the operation at the Georges Pompidou Hospital in Paris on Wednesday.

Artificial hearts have already been in use for many years as a temporary fix for patients with chronic heart problems.

The Carmat product aims at providing a longer-term solution to bridge the wait for a donor heart and enable hospitalised patients to return home and maybe even resume work.

"He was nearing the end of his life," Latremouille told a press conference, adding that the surgery had gone according to plan. "The intervention took place in good conditions... There were no complications linked to the innovative nature of the implant operation," he said.

"He is not walking yet, but we will try to get him sitting

and then standing soon enough. The objective is for him to have a normal life."

The artificial heart, a self-contained unit implanted in the patient's chest, uses soft "biomaterials" and an array of sensors to mimic the contractions of the heart.

The goal is to lessen the risk of blood clots and rejection by the immune system.

The patient will have to wear a belt of lithium batteries to power the heart.

Cardiac surgeon Alain Carpentier, who led the operation and who has spent 25 years working on the development of the artificial heart, said he was grateful to the patient for taking part in the trial. "He has a lot of humour. He's a very good patient," he told reporters.

More volunteers could soon benefit from the 900-gramme (31-ounce) device, according to Philippe Pouletty, who co-founded Carmat with Carpentier.

"A number of patients are being selected. It is likely that other implantations will take place in the coming weeks," he told Europe 1 radio.

The first phase of the trial, on a small group of volunteers in terminal condition, will assess survival one month after the operation, or earlier if the patient receives a natural heart.

"France can be proud of this exceptional effort in the service of human progress," French President Francois Hollande said in a congratulatory letter to the medical team.

Nearly 100,000 people in Europe and the United States are in need of a heart transplant, according to Carmat.

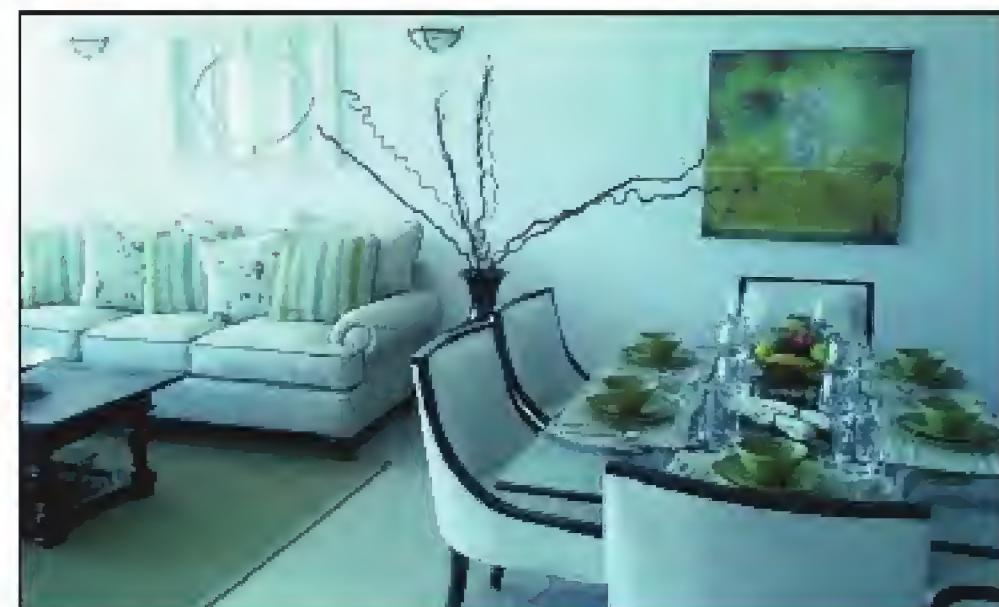
Acqua Condominium Aruba announces that construction has been progressing at a brisk pace

The East Tower, overlooking Palm Beach boasts 208 condos, spread over 14 floors. The two top building floors embrace 16 penthouse apartments with majestic views. The building is simply awaiting the windows and a few finishing touches, to conclude construction, very possibly by the end of this year. Following the completion of the elegant club house, the tropical landscaped pool and the spacious parking lots, the condos will be delivered to their proud new owners. Ground has been cleared for the North Tower, which will follow as soon as the East Tower is completed.

A spokesperson for Acqua Condo Aruba reports that the project is receiving tremendous attention, particularly for the winter months. Snow-birds longing to reside in a vacation home on Aruba are now able to visualize this dream coming true, in a manner that leaves them utterly care free when not in residence.

Making the decision to purchase and acting on it quickly, was recently made even more imperative. In November of 2010, the island government of Aruba reiterated its commitment to a building moratorium for the next 10 years, making Acqua Condominium a truly unique investment opportunity, as it is the one and only high-rise condo project on property land, in the island's most-desired location.

In view of the moratorium news, and the project's lucrative position, developers were compelled to discontinue the pre-construction discounts. Nevertheless, other purchase incentives have introduced.



Special discount offers in effect at present are:

Pay 30% down payment and get 10% discount, 50% down payment, get 15% discount, pay in full for a 25% discount. Prices start at \$ 296,800 for a 2-bedroom/2 bathroom apartment. Paying cash will allow the buyer to obtain this very same unit for only \$ 222,600 -remarkable savings!

Other incentives include: The opportunity to profit from your purchase is also available to buyers when they place their unit in a rental pool.

If the image of Aqua Condominium tugs at your heart-strings, you are invited to visit the sales gallery and the two elegant model-suites available

for viewing, fully finished with luxurious touches and high-end amenities.

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Tom Cruise settles lawsuit over 'abandoning' daughter

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Tom Cruise has reached a settlement with a magazine publisher he sued for \$50 million in libel damages over claims he abandoned his daughter Suri after his divorce, the star's lawyer said.

Terms of the agreement remain confidential, but a statement said German publisher Bauer acknowledged that it "never intended" to suggest the "Mission Impossible" star abandoned his daughter.

His former wife Katie Holmes announced she was filing for divorce in June last year. The following month Bauer's Life & Style splashed the headline "Suri in tears, abandoned by her dad," over a picture of the sobbing girl, living with her mother in New York after the split.

That prompted Cruise's libel suit, which has been the subject of legal wrangling for more than a year.

Last month Cruise -- who appeared to have been taken completely by surprise by his wife's announcement -- denied having "abandoned" his daughter, while acknowledging that he has seen less of the seven-year-old.

In a statement filed in court, the US actor said he had a "wonderful relationship" with his daughter, who he said "has never indicated ... that she has ever felt abandoned by me."

15 MINUTE ENGLISH LIFESTYLE & NEWS SHOW

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15

15

During the holiday season our offices are closed on 24, 25, 26, 27 & 31 December and on 1 January 2014.

All of us at PwC wish you peace and happiness this holiday season and best wishes for a bright and successful year ahead.

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3D printing 'will change the world'

PARIS (AFP) - From replacement kidneys to guns, cars, prosthetics and works of art, 3D printing is predicted to transform our lives in the coming decades as dramatically as the Internet did before it.

"I have no doubt it is going to change the world," researcher James Craddock told AFP at the two-day 3D Printshow in Paris which wraps up later on Saturday.

A member of the 3D Printing Research Group (3DPRG) at the UK's Nottingham University, Craddock nevertheless predicted that use of 3D printing would be limited.

"You wouldn't want to make

a cup from a 3D printer because it would probably fall apart, leak or poison you, but you would use it for high-value, beautiful items or replacement parts," he said.

- Arms

This is one of the more eye-catching prospects and has attracted a lot of publicity.

Californian engineering company Solid Concepts said earlier this month it had produced a metal replica of a classic 1911 shotgun.

US entrepreneur and inventor Brook Drumm, however, warned that the process of printing a gun would be slow, expensive and potentially dangerous, requiring lasers at high

temperatures, lots of power and hazardous materials.

Drumm set up his firm Printbot to produce printers costing from \$400 that print plastic items.

Metal printers can cost around \$250,000 (185,000 euros) and "the particulates are so fine that your skin could absorb them through the pores. The materials are not safe", he said.

The gun itself -- unless made out of metal -- would also be unreliable.

- Art

Fancy a replica of a Viking helmet or one of the Louvre's most famous sculptures on the mantelpiece?

American Cosmo Wenman has used thousands of photographs taken in some of the world's biggest museums to produce exact plastic copies.

Works he has produced include the ancient Greek statue Venus de Milo which is in the Louvre.

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- Replacement parts

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Snowden revelations may lead to spying curbs: experts

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Intelligence leaker Edward Snowden's revelations about the scale of American eavesdropping have succeeded in triggering a fierce debate which could ultimately lead to limits on National Security Agency spying, experts say.

Snowden has been labeled a "traitor" by government officials but events this week signalled a possible vindication for the former computer contractor, who has always insisted he is a whistleblower trying to shed light on the NSA's secret surveillance.

Six months since a stream of bombshell revelations began pouring out from Snowden, members of Congress are proposing new laws to rein in the NSA, a federal judge ruled one of its programs is likely unconstitutional and a panel hand-picked by the White House has called for sweeping changes to electronic surveillance.

It is "undeniable that we're having a series of debates about the appropriate limits of government surveillance that, without Edward Snowden, we would not be having," said Stephen Vladeck, professor of law at American University.

"If Snowden's goal was to spark a public debate I think he succeeded beyond his wildest dreams," he told AFP.

Snowden, who has been granted asylum in Russia and faces espionage charges in the US, has expressed satisfaction that federal judge Richard Leon found the NSA's collection of Americans' telephone records probably violated privacy rights and that the snooping



ing was "almost Orwellian" in scale.

"Today, a secret program authorized by a secret court was, when exposed to the light of day, found to violate Americans' rights," Snowden said after Monday's ruling.

The most serious rebuke to the NSA came Wednesday from a panel of establishment figures named by the White House to review the surveillance operations that mushroomed after the attacks of September 11, 2001.

The panel, which included a career spy who served as acting director of the Central Intelligence Agency, Michael Morell, called for imposing limits on the NSA's powers, scaling back its secrecy and reforming the agency.

"We conclude that some of the authorities that were expanded or created in the aftermath of September 11 unduly sacrifice fundamental interests in individual liberty, personal privacy, and democratic governance," the panel wrote in its report issued Wednesday.

The panel also called into question claims from US spy

chiefs that the dragnet of phone and Internet traffic has kept America safe, saying the spying "was not essential to preventing attacks."

The panel warned that privacy rights outlined in the Fourth Amendment to the US Constitution should not be sacrificed in the name of preserving security, but also said the government had a duty to protect its citizens.

The tension between those two principles is at the heart of the debate triggered by Snowden.

"I think the question is: what is the spirit of the Fourth Amendment as applied to the new technologies?" Vladeck said.

"That is the incredibly important and so far unanswered question looming behind the Snowden disclosures."

Even the Director of National Intelligence, James Clapper, reluctantly acknowledged in September that Snowden's leaks have generated a much-needed discussion about the parameters of eavesdropping.

More than a decade since

the 9/11 attacks, the sweeping powers granted to the NSA by two successive presidents and lawmakers are now being re-examined, according to James Lewis, a former senior US official who worked on intelligence and cyber security.

"It's painful to say but yes, Snowden triggered long overdue thinking about how we engage in intelligence collection," said Lewis, a senior fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Snowden's leaks, however, also have damaged the US government's ability to gather intelligence and that will carry unknown risks, he said.

Snowden evokes mixed feelings among Americans.

According to a Washington Post-ABC News poll last month, only 35 percent of Americans between the ages 18 to 30 say Snowden should be charged with a crime, compared with 57 percent of those 30 and older.

Rights activists believe the leaks have opened up a rare opportunity to enact major reforms but it remains unclear where President Barack Obama will come down on the panel's recommendations.

For Snowden, the secrecy surrounding NSA spying represented a bigger threat than the surveillance itself.

"What we recoil most strongly against is not that such surveillance can theoretically occur," he wrote to Time magazine in an email interview, "but that it was done without a majority of society even being aware it was possible."

Spacesuit flaw postpones station repairs to Dec 24

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A new flaw has emerged with a US-made spacesuit, forcing NASA to delay until Christmas Eve the next outing to repair the International Space Station, the space agency said Saturday.

The problem came up in a system that handles water condensation in veteran astronaut Rick Mastracchio's spacesuit after he re-entered the space station airlock following a spacewalk that lasted 5.5 hours, NASA said.

It was not believed to be the same type of issue that caused a dangerous water leak in the helmet of Italian astronaut Luca Parmitano in July.

An investigation into that situation is ongoing.

Faced with unexpected repairs due to an equipment cooling breakdown at the orbiting lab on December 11, NASA arranged makeshift snorkels inside the 35-year-old spacesuits and absorbent pads in the helmets for these spacewalks in case such a leak happened again.

Now, astronauts are planning to work on resizing a spare spacesuit aboard the ISS for Mastracchio, 53, to wear on the next spacewalk to complete the ammonia pump module replacement.

The outing was initially set for Monday, but will now take place Tuesday.

NASA released the news late Saturday, after the spacewalk by the two American astronauts went faster than planned and appeared to go off without a hitch.

Space agency officials told reporters this week that Hopkins, 44, would be wearing the suit Parmitano had worn when he experienced the leak that nearly drowned him, noting its water pump system had been replaced.

The spacewalks were called for after a faulty valve forced a partial shutdown in the system that regulates equipment temperature at the space station.

Engineers tried to fix the problem from the ground but decided after about a week that a replacement of the pump module was the best remedy.

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Swiss banks sign up to reveal hidden accounts as US deadline looms

GENEVA (AFP) - Swiss banks are scrambling ahead of a December 31 deadline to decide whether to join a US program aimed at zooming in on lenders that helped Americans dodge taxes.

Around 40 of Switzerland's some 300 banks have already said publicly they will take part in a US program set up to allow Swiss financial institutions to avoid US prosecution in exchange for coming clean and possibly paying steep fines.

Washington alleges that Swiss banks have helped US citizens hide billions of dollars in assets from tax authorities, in a row that has soured relations between the two in recent years.

The two countries reached a deal in August aimed at ending the dispute, piercing a significant hole in the tradition of secrecy upon which the Swiss banking industry was built.

The banks have until the end of the year to decide whether to fess up to potential wrongdoing and hand over their files to US authorities, and thereby shield themselves from legal action, or take their chances outside the program.

Picking the wrong option could saddle a bank with crippling fines, fees or a US indictment.

SATURDAY'S Crossword Answer

I	Q	S	B	O	O	A	L	A
M	E	A	E	R	R	N	E	T
P	I	N	A	G	A	I	N	S
S	I	E	S	T	A	R	U	L
				T	I	N	V	A
S	H	I	R	T	T	I	L	E
T	A	C	O	P	E	N		
A	W	E	D	R	A	G	I	N
L	A	C	E	S	U	P	D	E
K	I	A	O	N	O	O	R	E
S	I	P	B	E	T	S	O	N

Banks that opened undeclared accounts for US clients -- especially the ones that actively wooed such clients -- definitely should join the program, experts say.

Washington in 2009 fined Switzerland's biggest bank, UBS, \$780 million for complicity in tax evasion.

"If one of the 10 to 15 banks the US Department of Justice already has in its files does not show up..., you can be sure there will be a BOOM in January," Homung said.

Switzerland's one-time oldest bank Wegelin & Co., founded in 1741, discovered earlier this year the price of not coming clean to US authorities when given the chance: it was pushed out of business after being slapped with a \$74-million fine for helping wealthy clients avoid at least \$20 million in taxes.

Fourteen banks, including Switzerland's second-biggest bank, Credit Suisse, are already officially under US investigation and will have no chance to skirt legal action.

The other banks can however opt in to the programme by determining which of the three remaining categories they belong in.

Most so far are signing up for category two and thereby acknowledging they may well have had US clients with undeclared accounts.

Category three, reserved for banks that aim to prove their innocence, "won't be crowded, it looks like," he said.

Especially surprising perhaps is that a large majority of the publicly backed cantonal banks, which are regionally based and have long insisted they never went after US clients, have opted for category two. Small banks could be forced out of business.

All the banks rushing to the

confession booth have not necessarily committed any misdeeds though, experts say.

A number of banks insist they have only had a few US clients and have never done anything to encourage tax evasion, but have chosen to initially join category two for fear that a single tax-dodging American, even unbeknownst to them, could land them in legal qualms.

Switzerland's third-largest bank, Reiffelsen, and private bank Vontobel have for instance said they will opt for category three or four, reserved for local banks with no US clients at all, which should show some of the smaller banks with few US clients that the self-flagellating is unnecessary, Kunz said.

Banks in category two will face penalties equivalent to between 20 and 50 percent of the value of undeclared accounts, depending on when they were opened, not to mention towering legal and translation fees.

"Many of the smaller banks simply will not be able to afford this," Homung said, cautioning that a number of banks might go belly-up.

He urged banks that had done nothing wrong to opt out of the program altogether, insisting that Washington was not interested in hunting down the minnows in the pond.

Regardless of how many banks decide to sign up by the December 31 deadline, observers warned that the program was unlikely to provide much immediate relief to a Swiss banking sector desperate to shake off the uncertainty that has been dogging it throughout the dispute with Washington.

Confusion over how the US program will be implemented means "the uncertainty is still there for many," Kunz said, adding: "So no happy new year for them."

Spaniards seek free food as soaring costs bring cruel Christmas

BARCELONA (AFP) - After dropping off her children at school in Barcelona, Esmeralda Ingles eats out for breakfast, not at one of the Spanish Mediterranean city's swanky cafes but at a soup kitchen.

The 31-year-old mother of three survives the winter on free food, as the soaring cost of heating her family's home is devouring her meagre budget.

Each morning Ingles joins around 100 other diners -- drug addicts, the homeless, unemployed families and battered wives -- at the Caliu centre, a church-run soup kitchen operated by volunteers in the city's humble district of Horta.

Ingles resorted to charity after three years without work when her right to unemployment benefits expired. None of the family's relatives knows of their plight.

"I open the mail box fearing new bills to pay," she said.

For her family of five -- including daughters aged three and 10 and an eight-year-old son -- the water, gas and electricity bills amount to about 100 euros (\$136) a month, she said.

After three years of unemployment, Ingles's husband managed to find a temporary gardening job with a monthly salary of 800 euros.

But the New Year looks bleak. When the two-month contract ends, Ingles's husband will be without work again in January.

Her husband is not alone. Spain posted a 26-percent unemployment rate in the third quarter of 2013 even as it celebrated the technical end of a two-year economic downturn, a turnaround that is hard to perceive on these streets.

Besides giving food, the Caliu centre offers clothing and even financial aid to cover household expenses.

For the past three years, the soup kitchen has been serving up hot breakfasts to the needy. Unlike most of Spain's economy, it is experiencing high demand.

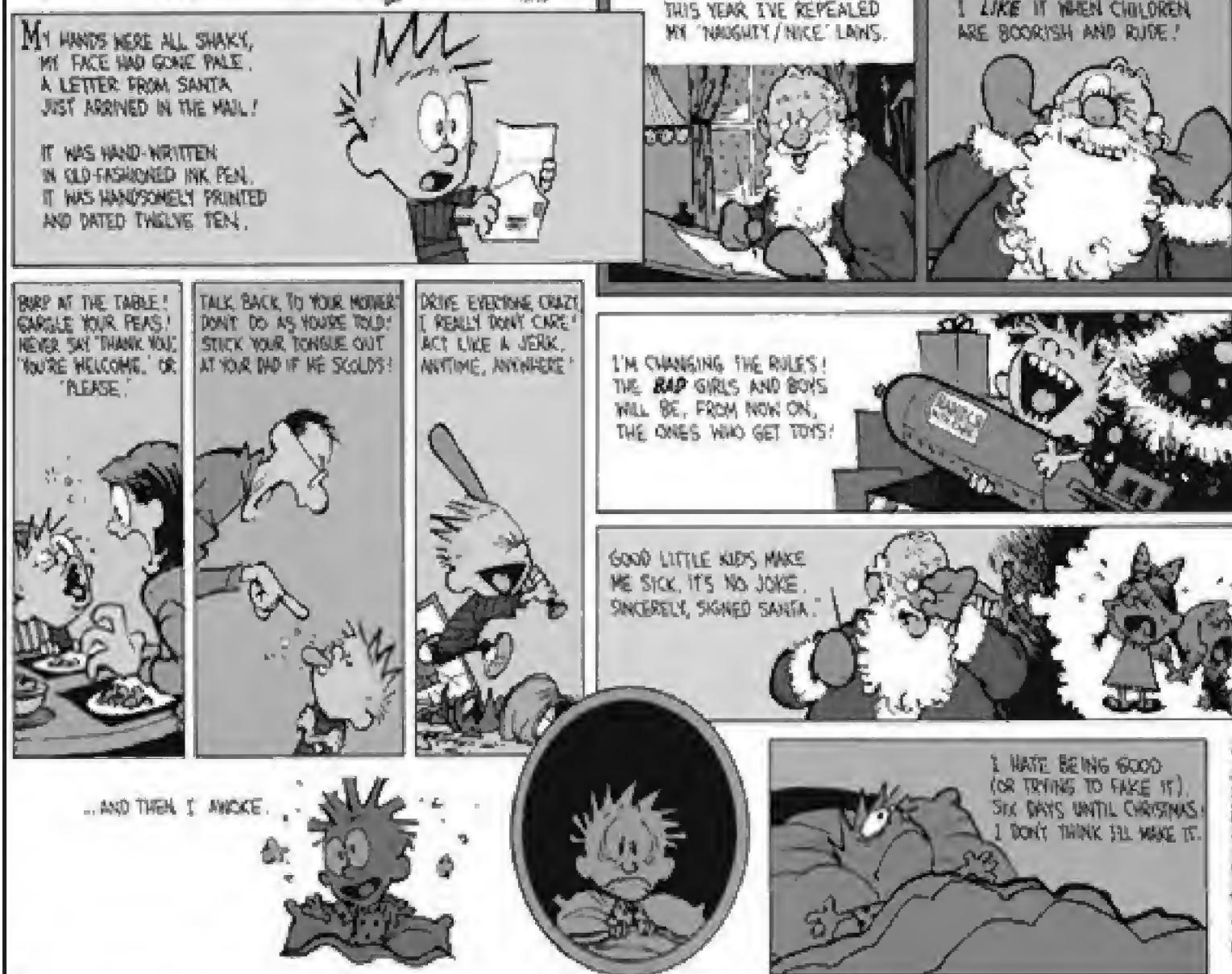
A 2013 survey found that 17 percent of Spanish households say they get to the end of the month "with great difficulty", and 9.2 percent have been late on paying their bills, according to the National Statistics Institute.



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ACROSS

1 Comedian Gracie
 6 Attila the
 9 Take care of (2 wds.)
 10 Treat poorly
 12 Epic narratives
 13 Olympic events
 14 __ nutshell (2 wds.)
 15 Obstructs
 17 1/60 of a

min.

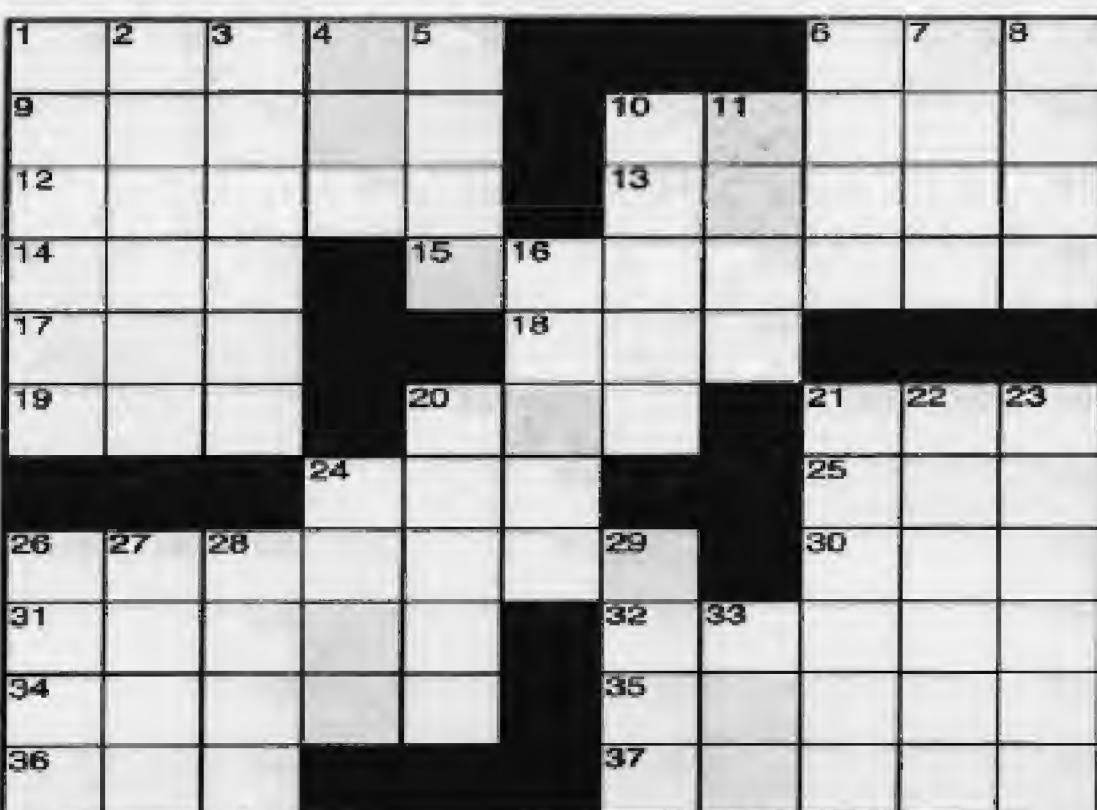
18 Links gadget
 19 Strive
 20 Church bench
 21 Say further
 24 Sparkly stone
 25 Teacher's group (abbr.)
 26 Fume filterer (2 wds.)
 30 Wolf Blitzer's

channel
 31 Less green
 32 Moral principle
 34 Sardonic wit

35 Honking bird
 36 California's time (abbr.)
 37 More painful

DOWN

1 Lend a hand
 2 Thinner
 3 Inheritance
 10 11
 13
 15 16
 18
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 21 22 23
 24
 25
 29 30
 32 33
 35
 37



4 Greek letter
 5 Between-meals bite

6 Actor Cronyn
 7 Employer
 8 Loch __
 10 Nixon's VP
 11 Invited
 16 News-paper stories
 20 Arctic explorer

21 Clichéd sailor's tattoo
 22 Huxtable daughter
 23 Fred Astaire, e.g.
 24 Feds (hyph.)
 26 Golfer's concern
 27 Assumed attitudes
 28 Notice
 29 Beer barrels
 33 Excessively

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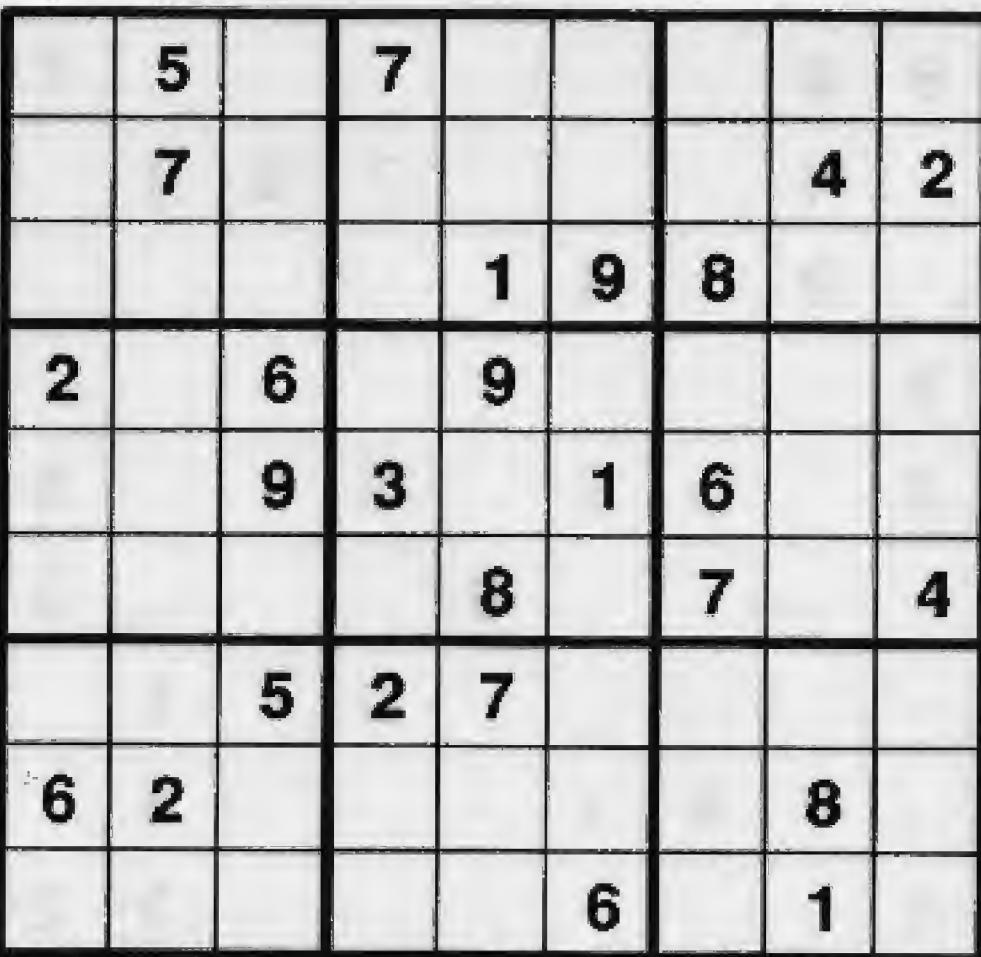
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Sudoku



SOLUTION



Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
 A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
 In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

Steak on a Stone-Le Petit Café's specialty



--In a time when dining choices and critiques are based on value for your dollar, an old favorite, Le Petit Café, still offers one of the best values not only in price, but quality, quantity and ambience.

Taking advantage of their Early Bird Special not only offers a great price for a delicious meal, but put you in the right place at the right time to enjoy Aruba's most spectacu-

lar dinner.

The Early Bird special offers a choice of a full sized chicken breast, a hefty portion of filet mignon or fresh grouper fillet accompanied by a well-stuffed baked potato, rice or french fries. There is a choice of soup or salad as a starter, and ice cream for dessert, all for a modest \$24.95; an unbeatable price for a great meal on Aruba!

Cooking your main course on the stone is a supremely healthy method of preparation, seasoned to perfection and using no fats or oils. Fish in particular is excellent, extremely moist and tasty. A thick cut of filet mignon usually requires cutting into smaller sections to cook fully, especially if your preference is medium-well to well done.

Le Petit Café is particularly well known for its "Land and Sea" specialty, filet mignon and lobster tail, a gourmet treat when served in their signature fashion. The restaurant also offers a diverse menu of pastas and tempting gourmet appetizers such as seafood crepes, crispy calamari, and escargot. For family members in the mood for something different there are several dishes to choose from, such as chicken parmesan, so a large family with different ideas of what they want for dinner can easily be accommodated.

We all know that breakfast is the most important meal of



Fish on a Stone

the day, and Le Petit Café has also long been famous for the best value for breakfast on Aruba. They still offer a full breakfast for \$9.99, another unbeatable value!

Le Petit Café located at Playa Linda Beach Resort in Palm Beach offers charming surroundings reminiscent of a European outdoor café. Surrounded by Old World gaslights and an abundance

of flora, it provides a delightful and romantic setting.

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So whether you are staying in Oranjestad, Palm Beach or Eagle Beach, a La Petit Café restaurant can be found easily from you resort, a perfect way to begin or end your day!

Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

-- Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the ac-



tion, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba contributed to the realization of

Gold Coast Aruba which when complete will be a community of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas. The Clubhouse is about to start construction and will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area and is expected to be complete by early 2013. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services program. There is always a great

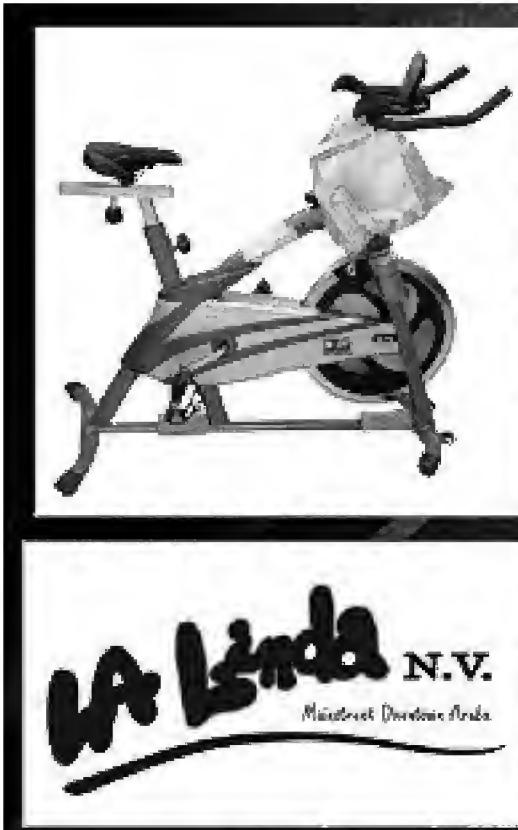
demand for Aruba and facilities such as those at Gold Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the least is the future value of the

investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.



Football: Pedro's eight-minute hat-trick rescues Barcelona

MADRID (AFP) - Barcelona ensured they will finish 2013 on top of La Liga as an eight-minute hat-trick from Pedro Rodriguez helped them come from 2-0 down to win 5-2 at Getafe on Sunday.

The hosts had got off to a flying start as goals from Sergio Escudero and Lisandro Lopez put them 2-0 up inside 14 minutes.

However, the Catalans responded like champions as Pedro scored three times in quick succession before the break.

Cesc Fabregas gave Barca breathing space when he volleyed home Pedro's cross 22 minutes from time and the former Arsenal captain doubled his tally from the penalty spot moments later.

Barca's comeback means they edge ahead of Atletico Madrid on goal difference at the top of the table, whilst Real Madrid can cut the gap on the top two to five points with a win at Valencia later on Sunday.

"I am just happy for the victory, the goals and to help the team," said Pedro, who also overtook Lionel Messi and Alexis Sanchez to become



Barca's top scorer in La Liga with 10.

Without the suspended Neymar and injured Messi, the spotlight was on the Catalans' fringe players in attack to make their claim for a regular starting spot.

Barca boss Gerardo Martino hailed Pedro's impact having previously seen his opportunities limited this season.

"Pedro has a great eye for goal, everyone in Spain knows that," said the coach.

Barca had gotten off to a disastrous start as Escudero played a wonderful one-two with Angel Lafita before firing home from close range.

Four minutes later Lisandro

rose highest to power home Pedro Leon's corner to double Getafe's advantage.

Despite such a poor opening, though, Martino praised his side's patience to find a way back into the game.

The Barca revival began 10 minutes before half-time when Fabregas released Pedro in behind the defence and his chipped finish had just enough elevation to take it past Miguel Moya.

Pedro then curled home into the top corner from the edge of the area and pounced on a defensive error by Juan Valera to give his side the lead at half-time.

Diego Castro should have restored parity for Getafe when he curled inches wide of the far post after turning Gerard Pique inside the area on the hour mark.

And that miss was to prove crucial as Barca killed off the contest with a wonderful team move eight minutes later that culminated with Fabregas volleying home Pedro's cross at the back post.

Pedro could have had his fourth seconds later as his attempted lob of Moya drifted just over, but he was also involved in Barca's fifth as was clipped inside the area by Borja Fernandez and Fabregas sent Moya the wrong way from the resultant spot-kick.

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BRIEFS:



ABU DHABI (AFP) - World number three David Ferrer said Sunday that he has split with coach Javier Piles after a 15-year working relationship. Ferrer, 31, who reached his first Grand Slam final this year at the French Open where he lost to compatriot Rafael Nadal, made his announcement at the Mubadala World Tennis Championship which gets underway in Abu Dhabi on Thursday. Ferrer and Piles had endured a close but sometimes roller-coaster relationship. The coach once locked Ferrer in a cupboard as punishment for a poor performance on the practice courts.



KANSAS CITY (AFP) Inside linebacker Jerrell Freeman #50 of the Indianapolis Colts intercepts a pass intended for tight end Anthony Fasano #80 of the Kansas City Chiefs during the game at Arrowhead Stadium on Sunday. Colts won 23 - 07



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weekends

Football: Five-star Bayern win Club World Cup

MARRAKECH (AFP) - European champions Bayern Munich claimed their fifth title of 2013 as they lifted the Club World Cup with a 2-0 win over Raja Casablanca in Saturday's final.

The Bavarian giants had few problems against Moroccan champions Raja as Bayern grabbed both goals inside the opening 22 minutes from Brazil centre-back Dante, then midfielder Thiago.

Having become the first German team to win the treble of Champions League, Bundesliga and German Cup titles last season, Bayern now add the Club World Cup to the UEFA Super Cup title they won in August.

This was the third time Bayern coach Pep Guardiola has won the Club World Cup after lifting the trophy with



Barcelona in 2009 and 2011.

Bayern winger Franck Ribery was voted player of the tournament. The France winger must wait until January 13 to find out if he has beaten Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo to the Ballon d'Or.

Even without injured Germany star Bastian Schweinsteiger and Netherlands winger Arjen Robben, Guardiola's Bayern had too much firepower for Raja at the 45,000 sell-out Marrakech Stadium.

Just as they had done in Wednesday's 3-0 semi-final win over Asian champions Guangzhou Evergrande, the Germans dominated throughout.

The Moroccans have earned admirers for a tremendous run which saw them beat Auckland City, Monterrey and Atletico

Mineiro en route to the final where they had plenty of home support.

Bayern are on course to defend all their titles in 2014 having reached the Champions League knock-out phase as group winners.

They are also seven points clear in the Bundesliga with a game in hand having broken or equalled 25 German league records last season.

In the third-place play-off earlier Saturday, Atletico Mineiro defeated Guangzhou 3-2 thanks to a last-minute strike from substitute Luan.

The Brazilians played the closing minutes of the match with 10 men after veteran star Ronaldinho, who had scored his team's second goal, was red-carded.

NBA: Westbrook scores 31 to spark Thunder over Spurs

SAN ANTONIO (AFP) - Russell Westbrook scored 31 points to lead the Oklahoma City Thunder in a victory over the San Antonio Spurs 113-100 in a Saturday showdown of NBA division leaders.

Westbrook, who hit 13-of-22 from the floor and added eight assists for the Thunder, netted 11 points in the third quarter as Oklahoma City improved the NBA's best record to 22-4, while the Spurs fell to 21-6.

It was the Thunder's ninth victory in a row and fifth road triumph in a row, while San Antonio lost for the second time in four games.

Reggie Jackson came off the Thunder bench to contribute 21 points while Kevin Durant

scored 17 points and Spanish Olympian Serge Ibaka scored 14 points and pulled down 14 rebounds for Northwest division leader Oklahoma City, which stayed just atop Portland (22-5).

The Spurs welcomed back star French guard Tony Parker after a bruised right shin had sidelined him for two games, and Parker responded with team-highs of 23 points and eight assists.

Together with Portland and Eastern Conference rivals Indiana (21-5) and Miami (20-6), the Thunder and Spurs have been among a handful of squads who have dominated the NBA through the first two months of the season.

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Alpine skiing: Weirather wins giant slalom



VAL-D'ISÈRE (AFP) - Liechtenstein skier Tina Weirather extended her lead in the overall World Cup standings when she won the giant slalom on Sunday at the French resort of Val d'Isere. The 24-year-old, recording her third win of the World Cup season, finished well ahead of Swiss Lara Gut while Maria Pietilae-Holmner of Sweden was third. Weirather clocked a combined time of 2min 24.10sec down the Oreiller Killy (OK) piste in clement weather at the glitzy French resort. Weirather comes from fine skiing stock, daughter of former World Cup ski racers Harti Weirather of Austria and Hanni Wenzel of Liechtenstein. Her mother Hanni, a double Olympic gold medallist in 1980, claimed 33 wins and 89 podium placings on the global circuit in a glittering career. But she never triumphed in Val d'Isere.